

Spotlight



on Student Assessment and Accountability

June 18, 2015

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Clarification on State-Administered 9th and 10th Grade Spring 2016 PSAT

The intent of the state law is that all 9th and 10th grade students take the state summative assessment (the PSAT). State law also requires the summative assessment to be administered in the Spring. Therefore, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will provide for the statewide administration of the PSAT in Spring 2016.

Because this will be a new state assessment and new grade levels being assessed, MDE will not be using the PSAT in the 2015–16 accountability system. We want to create a positive transition with the addition of 9th and 10th grade assessment, and make sure testing in these grades is adequately established before it is rolled into accountability.

There will be no alternate assessment in 9th and 10th grades in 2015–16 as this will be the first time MDE will be administering a state summative assessment in these grades. During these first transitional years for testing in grades 9 and 10, all students, including those who are typically assessed using the 1% alternate assessment, are welcome to take the PSAT.

If an IEP team determines the PSAT is not appropriate for an individual student and documents this determination in the student's IEP, the student will not be penalized for not taking the PSAT. MDE will convene a group of stakeholders who routinely work with students who take alternate assessments in Michigan to seek their input on what is the most appropriate and meaningful way to assess students in these grades as we move forward.

Details for Spring 2016 testing are still being worked out. MDE will provide information in the fall for ordering materials for the Spring 2016 statewide PSAT administration.

Fall PSAT is not part of state testing and is not provided by MDE. If your district is choosing to provide a Fall administration of the PSAT, that is the responsibility of your district, and your students will still need to take the Spring 2016 PSAT for the statewide administration.

Note: Materials for Fall administration of the PSAT must be ordered directly from College Board.

Key:  Reminders

► Sign up for Spotlight at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new>. Enter your email address and select Spotlight under Student Assessment.

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WIDA ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Score Release Preparation

Scores for the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs are expected to be available in late June. At that time, districts will have access to the Student Data File through the MDE Secure Site. Paper reports will be shipped to schools in July.

To prepare for receipt of student scores, schools are encouraged to do the following:

- Review the *Interpretive Guide for Score Reports* at www.wida.us under the Assessments, ACCESS for ELLs page, Scores & Reports section.
- Watch the 2015 ACCESS Score Reports Webinar (under Downloads & Products on the ACCESS for ELLs page)
- Review the *Alternate ACCESS Interpretive Guide for Score Reports* at www.wida.us under the Assessments, Alternate ACCESS for ELLs page, Scores & Reports section.
- Watch the 2015 Alternate ACCESS Score Reports Webinar (under Downloads & Products on the Alternate ACCESS page).



Reminders

Testing Schedules for Next Year!

We are working to get information out as soon as possible regarding next year's testing windows. We would like to provide as much planning time as possible for districts and schools to prepare next year's calendar. We are working with educators around the state over the next several weeks through our surveys and focus groups to gather feedback on how test administration within this year's test window structure went. We hope to use that feedback to create an even better experience for schools next year, and will have detailed test window guidance published in the Spotlight in August.

Districts should also review the recently revised [Entrance and Exit Protocol](#) (EEP) to learn how to make exiting decisions for students identified as English Learners (ELs). For further questions and clarifications on the EEP, please contact Shereen Tabrizi at OFSSpecialPops@michigan.gov.

Administrator Survey for MI-Access Now Available

The spring 2015 MI-Access assessments came with many changes this year. Among the changes was an online option for our alternate assessments. With the completion of each testing window, the Michigan Department of Education encourages feedback from MI-Access assessment administrators and coordinators about their experience with the tests. A short feedback survey can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S15MI-Access>. This survey will be available until 5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 30, 2015. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the survey.

Today, however, we want to provide some key information that can begin all of our planning for a great assessment in 2016.

- Our online testing windows will not open prior to April 11, 2016, and will end by May 27, 2016. Guidance around when grade levels or content areas will assess within that larger window will be provided later this summer.
- Our statewide SAT date is April 12, 2016.
- Our statewide WorkKeys date is April 13, 2016.

With the added benefit of the April administration date of the SAT, the College Board will be able to release items and item level information in the reports that

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educators, students, and parents will be able to see. This will be the first time we will be able to provide this valuable benefit from the college entrance exam portion of the Michigan Merit Exam.

With the recent addition of the PSAT for 9th and 10th graders, we are still working out details around administration dates for those exams and will provide those as soon as possible.

Thanks for your patience as we work through all the great feedback we're receiving around testing windows and schedules. We will get detailed information out later this summer.

Thanks again for all the very hard work that led to a very successful administration of the M-STEP this year. We look forward to another great year!

KEA Summer Professional Learning

Districts interested in administering the 2015 Fall KEA should register by the dates below for the following opportunities:

Optional Professional Learning Opportunities

Kindergarten teachers from districts who have registered to administer the KEA this fall are eligible for a stipend of \$250/day for the learning events.

- **June 30, 2015:** Deadline for districts to register to participate in the Fall 2015 KEA in order for teachers to participate in July trainings
 - ▶ July 20/21: Taylor
 - ▶ July 23/24: Sault Ste. Marie
- **July 31, 2015:** Deadline for districts to register to participate in the Fall 2015 KEA in order for teachers to participate in August trainings
 - ▶ August 10/11: Lansing
 - ▶ August 12/13: Traverse City (Overnight accommodations are limited. Please register quickly.)

The last date to register your district for KEA participation is **August 15, 2015**. The district registration link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H2DQS37>

Districts should note that although committed districts will be required to administer the KEA in the fall between September 8 – October 31, 2015, they also have the option to administer the KEA an additional two times throughout the year in order to best show growth across the KEA Widely Held Expectations.

Spotlight on Vacation in July

The Michigan Department of Education will be publishing one edition of the Spotlight during the month of July, on Thursday, July 16, 2015. We will continue publishing weekly Spotlights through the month of June and will resume sending Spotlights weekly again in August. Enjoy your summer!



Registration Now Open!

The Michigan Department of Education, Division of Accountability Services is pleased to offer registration for the 2015 DAS Fall Conferences for Assessment and Accountability. Come and join us for a day of presentations from DAS staff covering essential topics such as 2015 Accountability updates, Online Reporting, 2016 Assessments, Preparing for the SAT, and much more.

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The conferences will be held on 4 different dates at 4 locations throughout the state. Please register for one of the following:

- **August 20, 2015** — Lansing Convention Center, Lansing, MI
- **August 25, 2015** — Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI
- **August 27, 2015** — Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI
- **September 1, 2015** — Eagle Crest Resort, Ypsilanti, MI

After registering for one of the conferences, you will have the opportunity to indicate which breakout sessions you may want to attend by completing a short survey. This doesn't "lock" you into attending a specific breakout session, but gives us an idea of participant interest in a session topic, so that we may schedule the sessions appropriately.

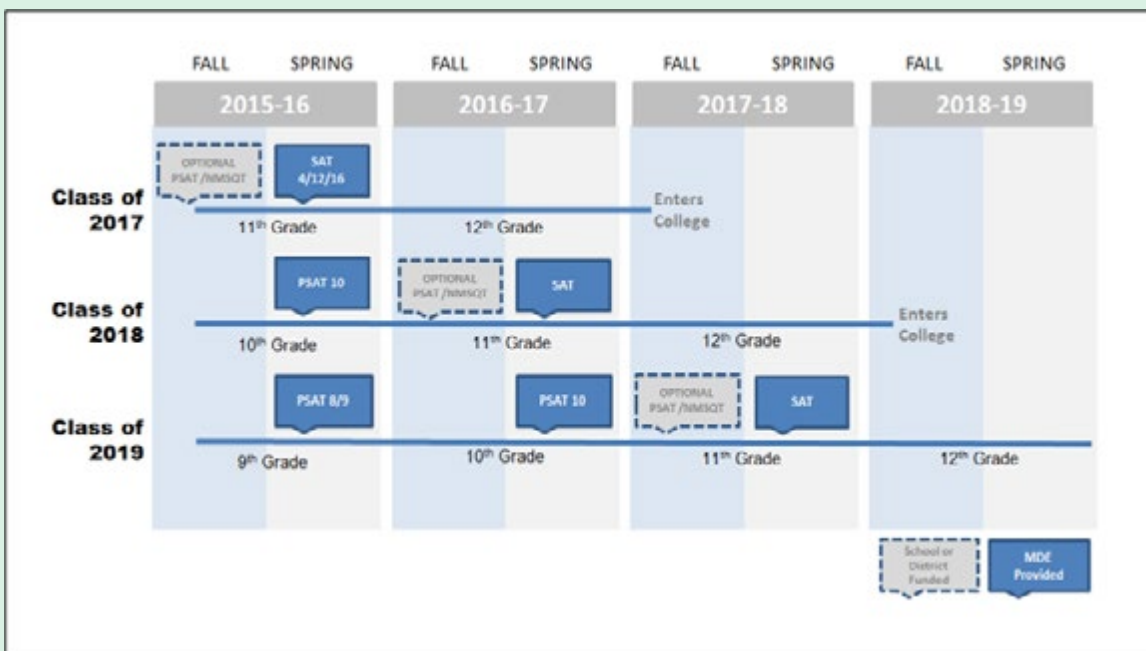
For a complete list of sessions offered and to register for the conferences, please go to <http://www.gomiem.org/news/das-fall-conferences-assessment-and-accountability>. For more information, contact MIEM at 1-517-327-9261.

SAT Corner

Information provided by the College Board

SAT, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9

In this installment of the Spotlight's SAT Corner, we would like to provide more detailed information about how the different College Board assessments work together to support college and career readiness. The chart below illustrates the MDE-provided, as well as the school optional, College Board assessments by semester, grade, and graduating class.



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Michigan will offer the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT free of charge to Michigan 9th, 10th, and 11th-grade students respectively. The Michigan SAT test day is April 12, 2016. The PSAT 10 and PSAT 8/9 will also be offered in spring 2016 on a date yet to be determined. The redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will be given for the first time this October; and schools and districts can elect to participate by ordering the test from the College Board.

The skills and knowledge measured by the PSAT-related assessments are the same as those measured by the SAT, so students and educators can monitor progress and identify areas in need of improvement.

PSAT 8/9: Readiness Baseline

What is it? The PSAT 8/9 serves as the foundation for understanding students' progress as they enter high school. An early indicator of college readiness that is aligned with the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and PSAT 10, the PSAT 8/9 will provide detailed performance feedback.

Opportunities: The PSAT 8/9 serves as a foundation for understanding student readiness as students enter high school in addition to providing hands-on opportunities to practice the knowledge and skills that evidence shows matter most for success in college and career.

PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10: Check-in and Focus

What are they? These assessments are the same test and only differ in the time at which they are administered; the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT is offered to 10th- and 11th-graders in the fall, while the PSAT 10, sponsored by the MDE, is offered to 10th-graders in the spring. These assessments serve as check-ins on student progress and pinpoint areas for development.

Opportunities: The PSAT 10 provides early feedback to help students identify the knowledge and skills they need to be college and career ready. In addition, through their PSAT/NMSQT results, students may also be connected with AP courses, scholarship and recognition programs, and college planning resources. Both the PSAT/NMSQT and the PSAT 10 offer scholarship opportunities to the Michigan students; however, only the optional PSAT/NMSQT gives 11th graders the opportunity to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship.

SAT: Connect to College

What is it? As the nation's most widely used college admission test, the SAT is the first step toward higher education for students of all backgrounds. It's taken by more than two million students every year and is accepted by virtually all colleges and universities. When used in combination with high school GPA, SAT scores are shown to be the best predictors of a student's potential to succeed in college. The SAT covers core content areas deemed essential for success in college — reading, mathematics, and writing and language. The SAT is connected to the College Board's earlier grade college readiness assessments, which work together to provide an ongoing grade-level picture of a student's progress.

Opportunities: The SAT provides a powerful connection to college. In addition, every senior who takes the SAT using a fee waiver will receive four college application fee waivers directly from the College Board.

Key SAT Changes

In previous installments of the SAT Corner, we outlined [eight key changes](#) to the redesigned SAT— and highlighted *Relevant Words in Context*, *Essay Analyzing a Source*, *Math that Matters Most*,

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Command of Evidence, and Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts. In this issue, we are focusing on three other key changes: *Analysis in Science and in History/Social Studies, The Great Global Conversation and U.S. Founding Documents,* and *No Penalty for Guessing.*

Analysis in Science and in History/Social Studies

When students take the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and SAT assessments, they will be asked to apply their reading, writing, language, and math knowledge and skills to answer questions in science, history, and social studies contexts. In this way, the assessments will call on the same sorts of knowledge and skills that students will use in college, in their jobs, and throughout their lives to make sense of recent discoveries, political developments, global events, and health and environmental issues.

Students will encounter challenging texts and informational graphics that pertain to the aforementioned issues and topics in the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section and the Math section. Questions will require them to read and comprehend texts, revise texts to be consistent with data presented in graphics, synthesize information presented through texts and graphics, and solve problems grounded in science and social science contexts.

The Great Global Conversation and U.S. Founding Documents

The U.S. founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Federalist Papers, have helped to inspire a conversation that continues to this day about the nature of civic life. Authors, speakers, and thinkers from the United States and around the world, including Edmund Burke, Mary Wollstonecraft, Nelson Mandela, and Mohandas Gandhi, have broadened and deepened the conversation around such vital matters as freedom, justice, and human dignity. Every time students take a College Board assessment, they will encounter a passage from a text from this global conversation. In this way, the assessments will inspire a close reading of these rich, meaningful, often profound texts, not only as a way to develop valuable college and career readiness skills but also as an opportunity to reflect on and deeply engage with issues and concerns central to informed citizenship.

No Penalty for Guessing

The College Board Assessments will not deduct points for incorrect answers. Students will earn points for the questions they answer correctly. This move to rights-only scoring encourages students to give the best answer they have to every question.

Full link from SAT Corner:

Eight key changes: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/about/key-changes>

Important Dates

Approaching Deadlines!

WIDA

- **Now – June 23, 2015:** *Verification of Not Tested* for Spring 2015 WIDA. Schools can submit a reason why a student did not take an assessment for review by the Division of Accountability Services staff, for a possible exemption for accountability purposes and other federal reporting.

M-STEP / MI-Access

- **Now - June 24, 2015:** *Verification of Answer Documents* available for submitting issues for answer documents. You can find instructions on what to look for, explanations of the different screens, and how to resolve issues by clicking on the *Accountable Students & Test Verification–Spring 2015* link under the **Quick Reference** section at www.michigan.gov/securesitetraining.

June 2015

MME

- **Week of June 22, 2015:** ACT High School and District Reports expected to arrive in schools

MI-Access

- **Now – June 30, 2015:** Deadline for submitting 1% MI-Access Proficiency Cap Exception applications. Applications are completely electronic and are available through the Secure Site. Districts that already have an approved 1% exception application from the 2012–2013 or 2013–2014 school years need not re-apply.

MI-Arts

- **Registration is NOW OPEN:** Field Test the NEW Model K-8 Arts Assessments. Information on the field test and how to register is located on the MI-Arts wikispace at <http://mi-arts.wikispaces.com/home>.

July 2015

M-STEP / MI-Access

- **Now – July 8, 2015:** Submit issues for students not tested for possible exemption. *Verification of Not Tested* window is now open.

August 2015

WIDA

- **Now – August 15, 2015:** The Pre-K Cycle for the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) is now open in the MDE Secure Site. This cycle is reserved for students who are enrolling in Kindergarten for the 2015–2016 school year. Pre-K students only need the Speaking and Listening domains administered.

Scores for all students taking the W-APT must be entered into the MDE Secure Site regardless of how well they score. *Please see the article on page 5 of the [May 28, 2015 Spotlight on the Student Assessment web page](#) at www.michigan.gov/baa for more information.*

► To access previous Spotlight editions, go to http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_31168-280911--,00.html

Have Questions?

For assessment questions, please email BAA@michigan.gov.

For accountability questions, please email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov.

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.